

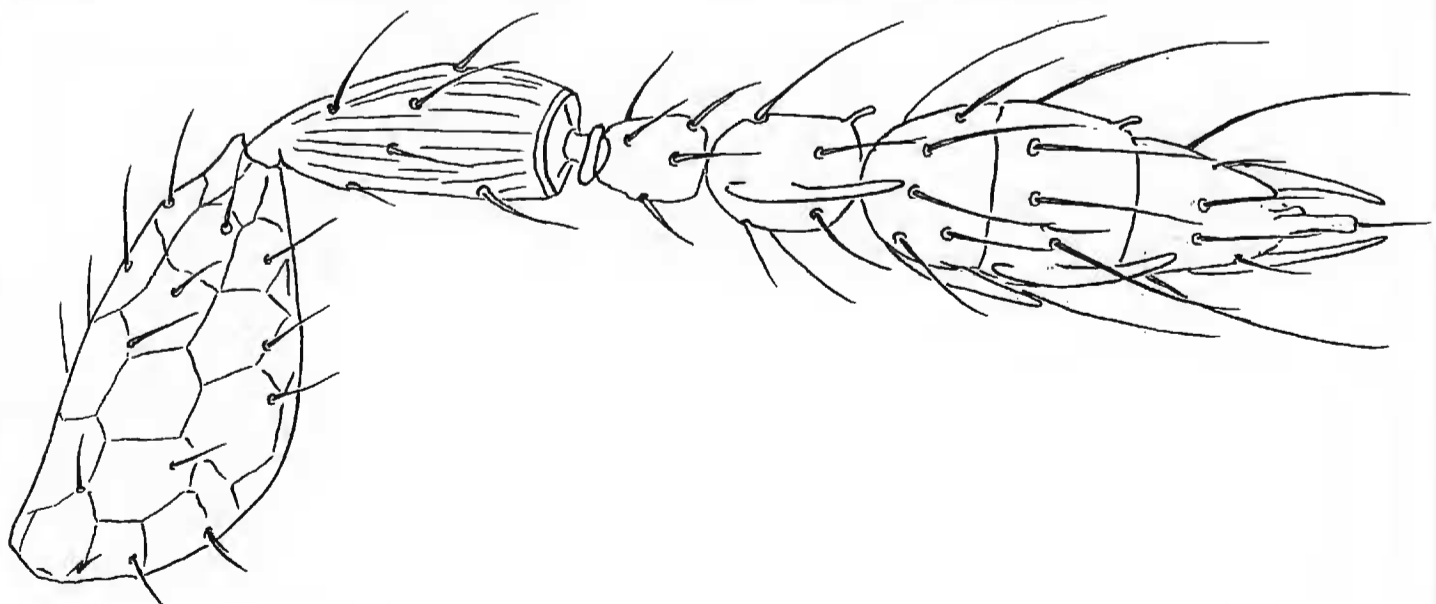
Scientific Note

DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE OF *CERANISUS AMERICENSIS* (GIRAULT) (HYMENOPTERA: EULOPHIDAE)

Members of the genus *Ceranisus* Walker (Eulophidae, subfamily Entedoninae) are solitary, internal parasitoids of immature stages of thrips (Thysanoptera). The Nearctic species of *Ceranisus* have been recently revised (Triapitsyn, S. V. & D. H. Headrick. 1995. Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc., 121(4): 227–248). However, this revision lacks a description of the male of *Ceranisus americensis* (Girault), a common parasitoid of flower thrips, *Frankliniella* spp., in North America. The importance of *C. americensis* as a biological control agent against western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande) (Greene, I. & M. Parrella. Greenhouse Grower, Dec 1992: 69–72, as *Ceranisus* sp.), warrants complete taxonomic knowledge of this parasitoid species.

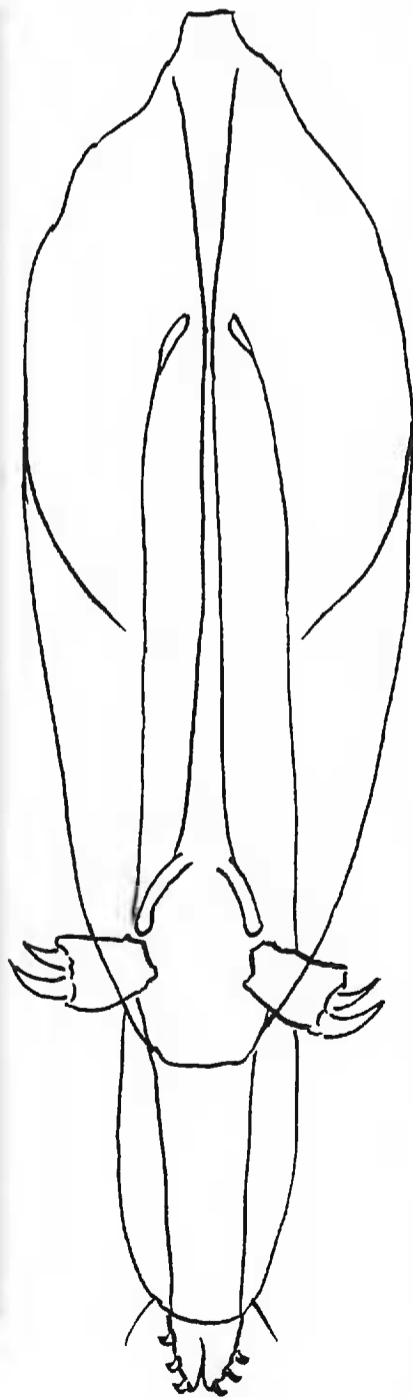
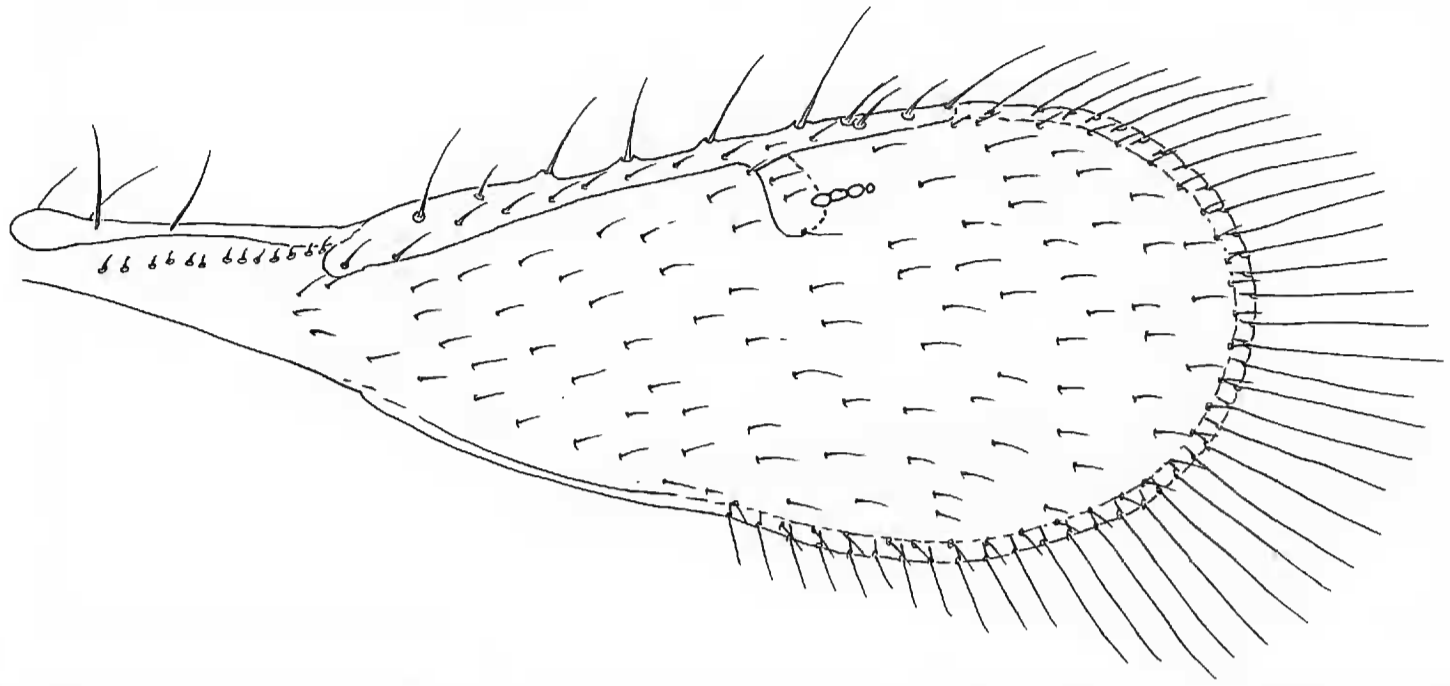
Ceranisus americensis, originally described as a *Thripoctenus* (Girault, A. A. 1917. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 53(2213): 445–450), was known only from females until recently, when Robert Zuparko sent several *Ceranisus* specimens to us for a possible species identification. This material, collected in California in 1964, contained females of *C. americensis* along with two males that we consider as being conspecific. Despite sexual dimorphism in some antennal structures common among *Ceranisus* spp. (i.e., a swollen scape and a 3-segmented club in males and a slender scape and a 2-segmented club in females), both female and male *C. americensis* share similar funicular characters: F1 is small and usually lacking sensilla whereas F2 is much larger than F1 and bears several sensilla (Fig. 1).

1



Figures 1–3. *Ceranisus americensis* (Girault), male. 1. Antenna; 2. Forewing; 3. Genitalia.

2



3

Figures 1-3. Continued.

This combination of characters appears to be unique relative to other known males of this genus. A description of the male of *C. americensis* follows.

Male.—($n = 2$) *Length*: 0.73–0.81 mm. *Color*: Body coloration black; antennal flagellum, legs, and wing venation dark brown or brown. *Head*: About as wide as mesosoma, smooth, except occiput, frontovertex and malar space with very fine sculpturing. Antenna (Fig. 1) inserted above level of middle of eye; radicle small and slightly transverse; scape swollen, about 2.0× as long as wide, with reticulate sculpturing (Fig. 1); pedicel markedly strigate and relatively narrow, about 2× longer than wide, as wide as F2; F1 slightly elongate or otherwise globular, without sensilla; F2 oval, much larger than F1, with 2 sensory ridges which extend beyond apex of segment; each of three segments of club with several large sensory ridges, distal segment with distinct apical spicula. Scape and pedicel sparsely setose, flagellum more densely covered by longer setae. *Mesosoma*: Forewing (Fig. 2) slightly narrower than in female. *Metasoma*: Gaster slightly longer and markedly narrower than mesosoma. Genitalia as shown in Fig. 3. Length: 0.15–0.16 mm.

Material examined [slide mounted except those indicated].—USA. CALIFORNIA. VENTURA CO.: 10 mi N of Ojai, Sespe Gorge, 26 Jun 1964, E. F. Riek and G. I. Stage, 18 females and 2 males (including 13 females on points); 6 mi N of Ojai, Wheeler Gorge, same date and collectors, 5 females (including 2 on points) [all in Essig Museum, University of California, Berkeley (CISC)].

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